

June 2015 Meeting Minutes

The June meeting for AYHSC was held on June 4th, 2015 from 5:30-7:00pm at the Whittemore Robbins House.

Students arrived at 4:30 pm for an appreciation event where they receive participation awards and talked about the past year.

In Attendance:

Adults: Ivy Laplante, Karen Dillon, Colleen Leger, Stephen Porciello, Mike Leach, Paul Franzosa, Rebecca Wolfe, Elizabeth Dray, Shannon Reilly, Officer Brian Gallagher, Cindy Bouvier, Judy Weinberg, Jack Flood, Cindy Curran, Liz Fischelis, Officer Jessica Scarbo

Students: Renee Hamblin, Jessica Winstanley, Julie Powers, Rosella Aluia, Cooper Schoenthaler, Olivia Sorenson and Samantha Fleishman

I. Welcome

Introductions - Student Advisors and community members all introduced themselves and their respective roles in our community.

II. Old Business

May meeting minutes: Approve minutes from May. Stephen Porciello moved to approve and Cooper Schoenthaler seconded. All approved minutes from our May meeting.

A. Student Coalition Updates

Student Advisors Agenda Item- Tobacco Mapping: Julie Powers and Jessica Winstanley reported on the conclusion of the project. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of their research and really enjoyed speaking to and mentoring the Ottoson Middle School students. They would be interested in participating in a similar project next year.

B. Current Project Updates

YRBS at Ottoson Middle School: The Coalition will be facilitating the YRBS on June 10th. Volunteers are needed to monitor hallways and distribute materials.

III. New Business

Menotomy Rocks Park-Intervention Map

Meeting attendees broke up into six small groups and completed a comprehensive strategy planning/Intervention map focused on the teens gathering and drinking in Menotomy Rocks park. Two members from the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park (and neighbors of the park) came to the meeting and participated in this activity. The groups reported their results to the coalition.

Students spoke about reasons why kids hang out at Menotomy and drink. Predominantly this is a problem with kids not having a local place to hang out - "Kids hang out there because they know that is where they will find other kids."

Judy W. (FOMRP) reported that she and other neighbors usually clean up the glass and bottles from the park after parties. She thinks she is seeing less glass lately but still hears activity.

Office Gallagher said that officers patrol the park every hour and talked about the process the police follow to monitor the activity in the park. Kids and neighbors thought it would be helpful to share this information with the general public. APD will send out a press release about their efforts to patrol local parks and break up teen gatherings. Kids will spread the word among peers.

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Cindy Curran explained the charter and operation of the diversion program and how it benefits youth in our community. She explained that it's a treatment modality to keep kids out of court.

As neighbors, they wanted to know what they could do to reduce the activity in the park. Neighbors wanted to know if their calls to APD are anonymous. They can be if they wish, but it helps for credibility of the complaint if the police know who made the call. Neighbors are encouraged to call as soon as they see large groups entering the park before they become impaired or ill. APD assured neighbors to not wait until things get loud or out of control - call APD immediately and give specific directions on where activity is occurring.

Talked about kids at Prom and Last Blast. The kids sign a contract the states they should not be "clearly intoxicated." Does this imply that being under the influence is OK? Coalition spoke about perhaps changing wording of contract for upcoming years to be more direct.

Group discussed MIAA regulations. These regulations require practices continue for student with a violation (to receive benefit of exercise), but participation in games are revoked.

Discussion centered on establishing a Community Center. Paul F. will talk to Leland of the Regent Theater as a possible venue for a place where teens can hang out.

Meeting Adjournment

Next Coalition Meeting - September 3rd, 2015 at 5:30pm - Whittemore Robbins House